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Allandale Neighbor

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Allandale 46th Annual Independence Day Parade and Celebration

Joe Reynolds

July 4th was another great day in Allandale. It started with another of the remarkable parades that thousands have enjoyed for the last 46 years. Jugglers, walkers, strollers, tricycles, bicycles, wheel chairs, scooters, skates, motorcycles, carts, floats, cars, and horses made their way along Bullard between sidewalks lined with flag waving friends. The observers became participants as everyone gathered at the Gullett School playground for music, speeches, and celebration. From the costumes you could tell this was Austin, and from the friendly volunteers and supporters you knew it was Allandale.

The parade collected itself up and down Bullard & White Rock about 8:30 in the morning. Pedestrians in one area and vehicles in the other. The sidewalks and curbs were crowded with spectators. Wanda Block passed out 600 flags to the crowd. At 9:00am a police motorcycle signaled the start and led a dozen or so antique and show cars to begin the parade. Our neighborhood policeman, Office Crowder, played the bagpipes in a uniform of APD blue and Scot's plaid. A color guard led by John Knox followed, dressed in revolutionary period costumes. Then came floats, with the Hot Potato Queens. And both Boy and Girl Scouts with flags and banners. And a drum corps from Austin Symphonic Band in period dress with replica drums and a 13-star flag carried by Calvin Stence. There were the Gullett Anniversary Marchers. Then came a flood of people of all ages from about 2 weeks to over 90. They were costumed and decorated to celebrate the day. They had pets of all kinds also 'done-up' in red, white and blue. From Grover the Irish Wolf Hound to bunnies in toy tanks. The end of the parade was a horse patrol.

See pages 12 - 14 for photographs taken at Allandale's Annual 4th of July Parade.

At Gullett the crowd found refreshments and joined a ceremony of patriotic music, speeches, and the announcement of winners in the various costume and vehicle decoration contests. Amy's had a truck of ice cream to dispense. Jim-Jim's sold mango ice and other flavors of goodness, with a donation to ANA.

The Scouts presented the Colors and Steve Morris led the crowd in the Pledge of Allegiance. Then the group sang the Star Spangled Banner and America the Beautiful, led by Steve Morris and his wonderful voice. Representative Elliott Naishtat spoke briefly and eloquently. Mrs. Dania Cárdenas, a visitor from Havana, Cuba, was recognized. The band, organized by McCallum student Luke Stence, accompanied the singing and continued a concert following the award presentations.

The awards recognized some of the costumes and decorations. They included Ben Napier and the Nichols Family for Bikes; Nate Sanford dressed as Ben Franklin; Anna Grace Salter in a Mother/Daughter pair; Jake & Emmi Anderson

Continued on page 2

Please join us for our September General Meeting on 9/27 beginning at 6 p.m. at the Ralph Yarborough Library on Hancock Drive.

The Allandale Neighbor

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MEMBERS Pat Briggs, Jeff Frank, Jerre Heaton, Tom Linehan, Patrick Manley, Cheryl Silver and Wendy Wilson.

The Executive Committee meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. at the Yarborough Library, 2200 Hancock Drive. Meetings are open to the public.

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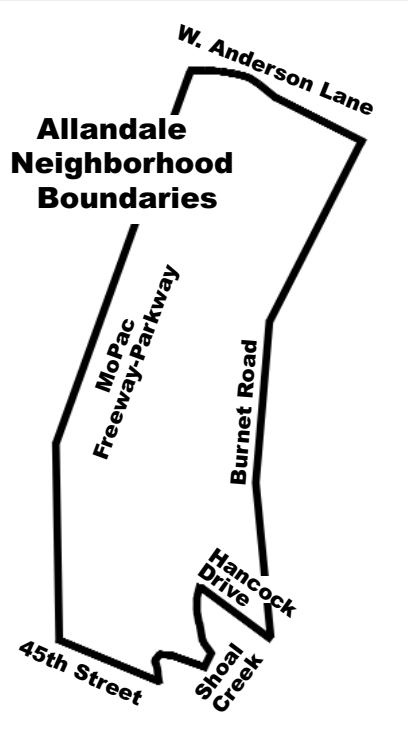

ANA Independence Day Parade

Continued from front page

for their wagon; the Reeves Triplets' stroller; Lloyd Koenig for his Model-A; Kathy Panak in her Art Car; Hunter Arnold's tricycle; and John Pass the Juggler.

The parade is so popular that some participants call to see if they can come and join in, like Alan Cline with his special replica revolutionary period drums, and Jim Moy of JimJim's Water Ice. And Steve and Amy Simms of Amy's Ice Cream —they made a special effort to be at Allandale "because it's so much fun." But, the parade doesn't "just happen"; it takes support. Janie Ruiz, Principal of Gullett, and Roy Martz, the Head Custodian, make the school grounds available and provide logistics. The ANA Board and community members all through Allandale take specific tasks. Keli Ray from the north set out and retrieved the 20 street signs. Marlene Meador ran the Blue Santa donations. Doug Hamm did decorations at Gullett. From the south end of Allandale, Elaine Goodson, Carol Walker, Marilyn Redmond, and Caroline Reynolds took one of the more intense jobs and judged the costumes and decorations. HEB and Randall's donated bottled water. The parade is a success due to its heritage and the continuity provided by people like Phyllis Brinkley. Thanks to them all. ❖

See pages 12 - 14 for photographs taken at the parade.

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Zoning issues were the focus of ANA's August Executive Meeting

Kay Newell & Tom Linehan

Three zoning issues: Subdividing the lot on 6100 Bull Creek, Dry Dock Seafood permit request for a late night hours permit, and rezoning of a Montview Street lot from single family residence to commercial comprised the bulk of the August meeting discussion. What follows are the minutes from the July 26, 2006 ANA Executive Committee Meeting.

Gretchen Vaden called the meeting to order. The following items were discussed:

(1) Zoning issue—6100 Bull Creek **Recap:** Allan McMurty and several neighbors are looking into the request by the owner to resub the lot at 6100 Bull Creek (divide the existing lot to make two lots). Patrick Manley, Executive Committee member and neighbor, spoke with the owner—his plans are to build a 2100+ sq ft courtyard home on each of the two lots.

July 26 update: Mark Herron submitted a plan to the city to resub/divide the lot at 6100 Bull Creek to the Zoning and Platting Commission on July 18th. Neighbors spoke at the meeting voicing their concerns over impervious cover, flooding and drainage. The Commission suggested that the neighbors involve the neighborhood association to mediate the differences and return to Zoning and Platting on Aug 15. The neighborhood association offered to participate in June when learning of this issue with the lot but at that time the neighbors weren't ready to move forward. This week several neighbors expressing their concerns about the resub contacted the neighborhood association. The neighborhood association invited Mark Herron, the owner of the lot and Allandale resident, to come to the Executive Committee meeting July 26 and present his plans. Mark purchased 6100 and 6102 Bull Creek. He has remodeled and sold the home at 6102 Bull Creek and had plans to renovate the existing home at 6100 Bull Creek but it was beyond repair and has been demolished.

Originally there were three parcels, only two of which were large enough for homes. Between the two homes was a small pie shaped piece of land. Mark straightened the property line between 6102 and the pie shaped piece of land - the straightening did not change the lot's street frontage, only the back portion of the lot. This has been approved by the city. 6102 Bull Creek has street frontage of 80'. The resub of 6100 will leave one lot with street frontage of 75' and a total of 10,700 sq ft; the second section of the lot will have a street frontage of 67' and a total of 9,700 sq ft. Each lot meets the original deed restrictions and is larger than the standard City of Austin SF2 (single family) lot zoning requirements.

Mark is planning a 2500 sq ft courtyard style home on the smaller lot and a 2700 sq ft home on the larger of the two lots, keeping in mind setbacks and making sure these homes are compatible with the surrounding homes. There is a question as to the parameters used by the city to determine that impervious cover is not a problem for these two lots. Mark said he is willing to work with the neighbors to reduce impervious cover and to consider adding rainwater harvest-

Continued on page 4

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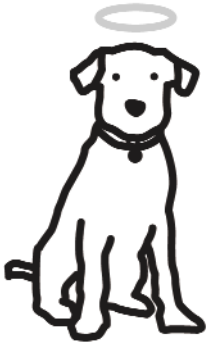

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ANA's August Executive Meeting

Continued from page 3

ing to the home. City staff has studied the flooding/drainage issues in this area. In Dec 2003 the city held a meeting concerning this problem at Covenant Presbyterian. At that time they said money for the remediation of the drainage ditch between Bull Creek and Woodview would be part of the 2006 Bond Election. The storage facility on Burnet Rd is a large part of the flooding/drainage issue.

The Executive Committee will call a special meeting August 7th @ 7PM Yarbrough Library, to bring all parties together prior to the Aug 15th Zoning and Platting Commission meeting to try and work out a compromise between Mark Herron and the neighbors.

(2) Zoning issue—Drydock Seafood 5800 Burnet Rd **Recap:** Drydock Seafood (formerly Asian Buffet/Romeo's/Pancho's) is pursuing a permit to allow it to remain open until 2 am. The Allandale Executive Committee has sent a letter to the city opposing the late hours. Allandale does not have a neighborhood plan in place, which could restrict late hour permits. This will be addressed during the neighborhood planning process. To date, Knight Real Estate Corporation, the owner of the shopping center, has not been responsive to neighborhood problems, which include lighting, noise, parking behind the building, trash, and vagrants.

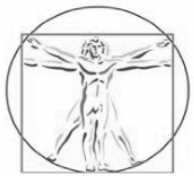
Per Drydock's representative, Monica Moore, the owner is talking about posting the area behind the building as a tow away zone, and there will be no back entrance to the restaurant for patrons or employees. She also stated that she felt the owner would be willing to stipulate in the lease that there would be no live music in the restaurant, other than karaoke.

Employee parking will be at the front of the parking lot along Burnet Rd. There is a front patio for smoking only. No one on the patio will be served food or alcohol, in keeping with TABC guidelines.

HEB has a restriction in their lease stating there can't be a cocktail lounge in the shopping center, so over 51% of the sales at Drydock have to be from food. Drydock is designed for casual seafood dining. Jane Ross, a neighbor behind the center, will set up a meeting with Gail Johnson, the owner of Drydock.

July 26 update by Jane Ross: Jane met with Gail Johnson to discuss neighborhood concerns and Gail's plan for Drydock. Jane discussed the neighborhood concerns with a late night permit and problems associated with the center management company, Knight Real Estate Corporation. Gail discussed his plans for the restaurant. Initially, Jane didn't feel that there would be room for compromise. But after their discussion of neighborhood concerns with the management of the center and the list of complaints the neighborhood would like addressed, Jane felt that there could be room for compromise between Gail and the neighborhood. The neighborhood association would like to see a win-win resolution. John Keohane is skeptical that the other neighbors would be willing to compromise.

(3) Zoning issue—5513 Montview **Recap:** this is a deep SF2 lot behind commercial property on Burnet Rd. The



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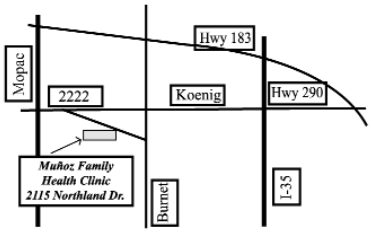

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owner is requesting that 2/3 of the lot that backs into the Burnet Rd commercial property be changed from SF2 to CS (commercial services) with a conditional overlay, leaving the remaining small section of the lot on Montview SF2.

July 26 update: Ann Young said the businesses along Burnet are moving closer to the single-family lots in the neighborhood. She said the city seems to accept the historical line separating commercial and residential along Burnet Rd and she thinks the staff recommendation will be to deny the zoning change. Pat motioned that the Executive Committee send a letter to city staff opposing the zoning change from SF2 to CS. Wendy seconded the motion. All voted in favor of the motion.

(4) Planning Process—Next Steps Gretchen will invite Mark Walters, Zoning Commission, and Brewster McCracken, City Council Member, to the Oct. neighborhood planning/executive committee meeting to answer questions related to the planning process, Allandale/Highland Park West Balcones Area NA boundaries, and what teeth the plan will have once it is in place. As it stands now, part of Allandale is included in the Rosedale neighborhood planning area. Major roadways, as opposed to the actual neighborhood boundaries, divide planning areas.

(5) Deed Restrictions, Street Frontage, and Resubs General questions were raised before and during the executive committee meeting as to how many lots in Allandale have street frontage of at least 100' and is there a way to determine all the deed restrictions that apply in Allandale. Does Allandale want to consider how to approach resubs as a part of the neighborhood planning process?

(6) Timing of Neighborhood Planning Process Steve Zettner stated a number of businesses along Burnet are in the process of being sold, and by the time Allandale finishes the neighborhood planning process it will be too late for a number of these properties. Gretchen asked Steve if he would set up a Burnet Rd committee to go out and talk to developers along Burnet Rd. Several people offered to help Steve in this process.

(7) North Burnet/Gateway Planning Meeting The North Burnet/Gateway planning area comprises 2300 acres bordered by 183, Braker, MoPAC, Walnut Creek and Metric. The area is larger than downtown Austin and UT. This is a combined effort of Austin citizens, business owners, the City of Austin and a team of land planners, urban designers and transportation consultants. It is envisioned that this area would become a mixed used development to include both commercial and retail businesses, as well as multi-family dwellings. This area has a proposed population of 25,000 residents; at present there are only a handful of apartment/condo complexes in this area. There is a Capital Metro rail station and a proposed ASA rail station in this area. The planning effort is underway so that a neighborhood/development plan will be in place before the area becomes too developed. As you can see by driving down MoPAC, the development in this area has already begun. The projections are to have the plan to city council for their approval by the end of the year.

(8) Upcoming Newsletter There was a brief discussion of articles for the September newsletter.

(9) August Executive Committee Meeting The library has moved the Allandale August meeting to Aug 30th @ 7 pm - so this meeting will be an Executive Committee meeting only.

(10) Next General Meeting September 27th is the General Meeting for the Allandale Neighborhood Association. ❖

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Find out how to join on page 2.

MoNAC Minutes 2006-7-18

Kay Newell

Thanks to Highland Park West Balcones Area Neighborhood Association for hosting the MoNAC ((MoPAC Neighborhood Association Coalition) webpage. www.main.org/hpwbana/MoNAC.htm.

North Shoal Creek Neighborhood Association has joined MoNAC. Meredith Highsmith is the President of North Shoal Creek NA whose boundaries are MoPAC to Burnet Rd and Anderson Ln to 183.

Capital Metro is having a series of meetings on train station design concepts. Howard/Lakeline/Braker Station meeting is July 22 2006, 9-11am, The Commons Center @ UT Pickle 10100 Burnet Rd Bldg 137. The Lamar/Highland Mall Station meeting is July 25 2006, 6:30-8:30pm Norris Conference Center @ Northcross Mall 2525 W Anderson Ln.

There have been three meetings this month concerning design concepts for the North Burnet/Gateway area held by City of Austin planners and Land Design Studios, as well as other consultants. The meetings are held at the Holiday Inn, MoPAC/183. The Thursday evening meetings have been informational. The Saturday meeting had about 45 participants representing different areas of Austin, which were broken up into six groups. At the end of the day, each group came up with a design for what they would like to see happen in the North Burnet/Gateway area. This is just the beginning phase for this area. There will be more meetings and input before this is presented to the city council. Frances Allen, Joyce Basciano, Sylvia Benini, and Kay Newell represented MoNAC and their respective Neighborhood Associations.

North Burnet/Gateway website—www.northburnetgateway.com/Project_Description.html.

Loop1/MOPAC Corridor Project Update presented by the Loop 1 Study Project Team - John Kelly, DMJM Harris and Mark Herber, TxDOT

The sample sound walls are a couple of months behind schedule. The funding for the sample sound walls may have to come from TxDOT's next fiscal year, which begins in September. The 3-D computer modeling is almost finished and will be a part of the overall environmental study. By the fall of 2006, they should have a better understanding of where the study stands. In 4-6 weeks the Aesthetics Advisory Committee will begin. This committee will be led by John Kelly and will be broadly representative of Austin Loop 1 corridor users. They are taking the previous MoPAC studies and updating them with current information, making sure every aspect meets CAMPO, FHWA and NEPA guidelines. Also part of the Phase 1 study will be one managed lane in each direction. South of 2222 part of the ROW will involve sharing Union Pacific's ROW. Preliminary discussions are under way with Union Pacific's San Antonio Regional Area office. Consideration is being given to ASA Intermunicipal Rail! District plans, so as not to interfere with ASA's plans for the Union Pacific tracks. TxDOT and DMJM Harris will be holding two Open Houses in September, potential dates Sept 19 & 21, location to be decided at a later date. Follow-up Open Houses will be in Dec. TxDOT/DMJM will be presenting an informational briefing to CAMPO on Aug 14. A brief introduction to the Loop 1 study was presented to the CAMPO Technical

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Advisory Committee on June 28th. TxDOT/DMJM are developing a website which should be online in late summer. Noise Education Forums will begin in October for property owners whose property backs into the MoPAC ROW. The Hill Group is starting a random telephone survey of users of the Loop 1 corridor. They will be placing 600 calls, looking for input on corridor uses and concerns. The general feedback from the one-on-one surveys has been positive. The earliest start date for the sound walls is 2008 assuming funding is in place. Per CAMPO guidelines, no additional ROW will be taken from the neighborhoods, but rather Loop 1 will share ROW with Union Pacific. The walls will be concrete with noise mitigation & anti-graffiti coatings. TxDOT sound wall standards are higher than Federal standards. The sound walls will be funded 80% Federal dollars and 20% State dollars; no city funds will be involved. The walls will be between 183 and the 1st/5th street interchange. The sound wall section along Great Northern is the only section that won't involve the TxDOT ROW. Since TxDOT's ROW is west of Union Pacific, TxDOT/DMJM will work with the city to have the walls placed on city ROW which is east of Union Pacific. The sound walls are noise barriers, which will help mitigate but not eliminate train noise. The Governor's office has started an initiative to move through-freight out of Texas cities, beginning with Austin and San Antonio.

ASA Intermunicipal Commuter Rail District update presented by Alison Schulze, www.asarail.org

The feasibility study conducted in 1999 shows that a commuter rail is both reasonable and feasible for the district. http://www.asarail.org/feasibility In 2002 the Austin San Antonio Intermunicipal Rail district was established by the legislature; it has no taxing authority. ASA is completing an alternatives analysis study of the 100 miles from Georgetown—starting at the abandoned MoKAN site, and continuing to south San Antonio. The Governor's rail initiative will move through-freight east of Austin by 2010, possibly near SH130. Through-freight comprises 75-80% of the trains on Union Pacific's lines in Austin. The remaining freight trains, considered local freight, and Amtrak would share the Union Pacific lines in Austin with ASA. ASA now has to define its ridership for the express and local trains. Potential future stations, including one at 35th St, are under discussion. http://www.asarail.org/map Carter Burgess consultant's 2005 study recommends 2 kiss and rides, 3 bus bays and 90 parking spaces for the proposed station at 35th St and MoPac. The proposed parking would be in the TxDOT parking lot by 35th St. This will depend on TxDOT leasing or selling their Jackson Avenue campus (Camp Hubbard), which at this point is not a given. The State School, Camp Mabry and 2222 have been ruled out as potential station sites. Based on the 2004 feasibility study by Texas Perspectives, Inc, the projected ridership will be 3.2 million riders per year. A macro study showing growth in per capita income & growth in tax base, as well as a micro study showing impact within 1/4 mile of each station, are being conducted. There is no prototype station; each will meet the design requirements of the area without threatening the adjoining neighborhoods. The ASA 2006 objectives are to reach an agreement with Union Pacific, complete the environmental process, and determine funding—capital, operation costs, and main costs. The projected plan shows a start date of 2010-2012.

For additional information, please see the following:
www.asarail.org/ASA_Pub_Presentation.pdf
www.dot.state.tx.us/mis/aus-sat/study.htm
www.apta.com/links/transit_by_mode/commrail.cfm ❖

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Kay Newell

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Tuesday, September 12th, from 6:30 to 9 pm

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Gullett 50th Anniversary Celebration Coming

Walter Brewer

It's been 50 years since the first bell rang at Gullett Elementary. Since that late-summer morning, thousands of children have opened the doors to a great education at Allandale's little red-brick schoolhouse.

To recognize this long legacy of learning, there will be a 50th Anniversary Celebration on September 30 from 9 a.m. to noon.

Everyone who's enjoyed spending time at Gullett is invited to revisit those days with a special anniversary program and refreshments. AISD dignitaries, former principals, teachers and distinguished alumni will attend.

Schedule

9 a.m. to 10 p.m.	Tour of the school (self)
10:15 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.	Presentation in cafeteria with cake and punch
10:45 to noon	More tours

The presentation will include a slide show, a choir performance and former school leaders. Tours will include history displays, bulletin boards with current student work and central point where alums can connect with each other. To learn more about the celebration or assisting with preparations, visit gullettgeckos.org. ❖

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Gecko Good News Column

Karen Moore, Gullett Campus Advisory Council Member

The school year is off and running and we have plenty of great activities coming up! We hope our neighbors will join in all the fun.

First and foremost is our 50th Anniversary Celebration. 1956-2006. Wow! Our Open House will run from 9 am till noon, on Saturday, September 30. Visit with old friends and make new ones while touring Gullett and viewing all the history exhibits the kids have put together. There will be lots to see: a slide show, old photo albums, PTA scrapbooks, and more. This is a celebration for the entire neighborhood to enjoy, so please join us! Please spread the word to out-of-town alumni, parents, and staff.

The famous Gullett Carnival will be held on Saturday, October 21. This is a wonderful way for future Geckos to experience Gullett at an early age. Our students always have a great time and we hope you will join us for this fun event.

Looking for the perfect book for your holiday gift giving? The Gullett Library's Book Fair runs from November 27 through December 1. Take care of your holiday shopping while raising funds for the Gullett Library. What could be better!

Did you know Geckos recycle? We recycle printer cartridges, cellular phones, aluminum cans, and paper (no cardboard or boxboard). Place your paper in the recycling dumpsters on Hunt Trail, and drop the rest off in the main hall outside the office. All of these items bring Gullett much needed extra funds. Your trash is our treasure!

Ever wonder what people do with those "Box Tops for Education" found on many products? Gullett collects these coupons and redeems them to fund various projects. Help us by saving these for Gullett. Drop off your "box tops" in the drop box outside the office. We really appreciate your help.

This is just a fraction of what goes on at our wonderful neighborhood school. If you would like more information, please check out our web site at http://gullettgeckos.org. Thank you for your support! ❖

Allandale T-Shirts

Wendy Wilson

Have you seen the latest in Allandale fashion? We now have an official neighborhood t-shirt, so expect to start seeing your neighbors sporting this new fashion statement.

The t-shirts were created to raise awareness of the ANA website (www.allandalereporter.org), as well as promote the neighborhood. In the spring, we had a contest for a tagline for the shirt. Kathleen Vale O'Hara, on Fairlane, thought up the winner, "Allandale—hugged by Shoal Creek, Loved by all." We had the shirts printed by a local printer and introduced the shirts at an ANA meeting and the July 4th parade.

Photos of the t-shirts are posted to the ANA website. The shirts are $12 each or 2 for $20 and will be on sale at all meetings of the Allandale Neighborhood Association. The next general meeting will be September 27.

Show your neighborhood pride—wear an Allandale t-shirt. ❖

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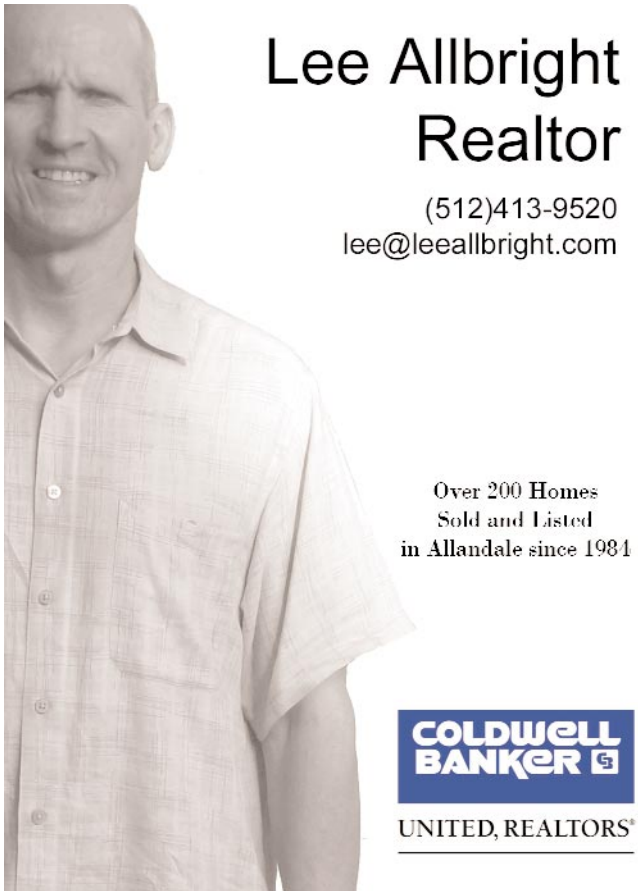

The Allandale Reporter—Your Neighborhood Web Site

Tom Linehan

The Allandale Reporter, the web site of the Allandale Neighborhood Association, www..allandalereporter.org, has evolved to become a valuable resource for keeping current on what's going on in and around the neighborhood. The site, launched in May of 2005, includes photos, announcements, crime stats, profiles of local businesses, an artisan gallery, ANA's bylaws, zoning matters, back issues of the Allandale Neighbor, and more. With all of the growth in Austin there is more for central city neighborhoods like Allandale to keep up with. We selected an easy-to-use hosted web application to build and maintain the web site so we could focus on the content. The site is updated throughout the week.

You will find minutes from the ANA Executive Committee, the ANA General Meetings, and MONAC, along with announcements of when and where those meetings and events are held. Photos of the 4th of July Parade, the neighborhood's biggest event, were up on the web site the day after. There are 78 photos in a photo gallery for neighbors to scroll through. If you were at the parade, it's likely you're in one of those photos. Thanks to everyone who submitted their best shots for the gallery.

Beyond neighborhood news and announcements, we keep the site interesting with "Snapshot," photos that change throughout the week capturing the everyday and unique of Allandale. Submit your Snapshot submission via the email link on the site.

Periodically, we'll open the door to one of our local establishments and put together a profile of their business. The latest is Blue Star Cafeteria, the stylish new restaurant that opened up in Rosedale Village. Other profiles include Amy's, Riley's Upholstery, ClayWays, Billy's on Burnet, and more.

Remember curb islands? This was the big story for the web site when we launched it in May 2005. Now that's old news. But just in case someone is considering traffic calming devices for SCB in the future, they can turn to the Allandale Reporter and learn from history. Over time, the site will be an even better resource for the "whatever happened to" in the neighborhood.

Speaking of neighborhood history, we collect and post photos and articles related to the neighborhood's history whenever we can get them. Look for the 1956 photo and related article on Wallace's Mobil Gas Station on the site. You will find it in the "Local Commerce" section. If you have an old photo of your house, send it along for the "Now and Then" gallery we're putting together.

Much of the content for the web site comes from the people who live here. We're always seeking submissions for the web site and have been fortunate to receive contributions from some very talented folks. Charles Randow and Cindy Gustin have submitted excellent photos for Snapshot. Our artisan gallery has some very impressive works. Most recently, Victor Engel provided us with our own weather widget that displays the latest weather conditions as reported from his North Allandale weather station. Others have contributed articles as well. We want your ideas, stories, and photos. Email them to allandalereporter@yahoo.com.

The Allandale Reporter contributes to building community by keeping you current on neighborhood issues and upcoming events and showing off people and places that make this a great neighborhood. Check it out at: www.allandalereporter.org. ❖

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Church Bazaar and Bake Sale

Pat Meiske, 990-5230

The women of Faith Lutheran Church, 6600 Woodrow Avenue, will hold their annual holiday bazaar and bake sale on Saturday, October 21, 2006, from 8 A.M. until 1 P.M. The bazaar will feature door prizes, silent auction, quilts, handmade crafts, gifts, and much more. Join us to get a head start on your holiday shopping. Proceeds will be divided between the North Central Care Givers, Cross Trails Ministry Camping Program, and repairing the church organ. ❖

Home Value and School Value Go Hand in Hand

Mary Kahle

For 51 years Lamar Middle School has been an integral part of the Allandale neighborhood. Whether or not you have children in the public schools, the continued success of neighboring schools affects your home value.

To this end, you, the residents of Allandale, have already made a significant difference through the commitment of an annual donation via the PTA. Lamar staff, PTA, parents, and students appreciate your generosity!

Another way to get involved with Lamar's success is through our fall festival, this year titled "Luau Lamar." This family-oriented event will be held on Friday, October 13th, and will feature live music, karaoke, inflatables, a cake walk, and—of course—the famous car bash!

The success of the event requires the support of numerous volunteers to work in the booths for shifts of approximately 1½ hours. Anyone can volunteer for these positions, and what a great way to see what a strong, community-supported school looks like.

If interested in volunteering, contact Mary Kahle at 458-5038 or mary@kahle.org. Thank you! ❖

Take Pride In our Neighborhood

Help out a neighbor ■ Don't Litter ■ Donate to local charities Use our trails and parks ■ Conserve water ■ Organize Neighborhood Watch program ■ Drive carefully ■ Have a block party ■ Attend a neighborhood meeting ■ VOTE! ■ Report suspicious activities to 311 ■ Observe the speed limit ■ Keep your pets on a leash ■ Recycle ■ Pick up after your pets ■ Park in your driveway ■ Keep bicycle lanes open ■ Keep your home in good repair ■ Keep your yard mowed and trimmed ■ Join ANA ■ Donate household items ■ Report potholes 440-8444 ■ Correct poor street lighting 505-7617 ■ Stay in contact with your elderly neighbors ■ Take walks around the neighborhood ■ Pick up litter in streets and on sidewalks ■ Organize a safe house on routes to schools ■ Report missing street signs 457-4851 ■

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photos courtesy of Elizabeth Creech and Cathy Savage.

Please visit www.allandalereporter.org for more parade photographs

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Zoning and Allandale

John Keohane, Chair, Zoning Committee, keohane@prodigy.net

The zoning committee is open to all. Come join us. You can get on the email list by emailing me: keohane@prodigy.net Please include your name, address, and a phone number. I expect to be able to reach zoning committee members mostly by email, and infrequently by phone.

We've had four zoning committee meetings since I became zoning chair, by appointment, at the beginning of this year. We've also done a lot by email, and, infrequently, by phone.

Our most important work, as a zoning committee, is to be aware of and encourage interest in various zoning requests. Because we do not yet have an official City of Austin neighborhood plan, those requests are considered by the city Zoning and Platting Commission, which meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month in the City Council Chambers in City Hall. There's free parking in the city garage in that building. The #3 bus goes within about four blocks.

Some recent issues that have been of concern to neighbors, going south to north:

1. 5513 Montview. Lot is residential, on a residential street. Applicant owns that lot, plus the one backing up on it on the west side of Burnet Road. Applicant has asked that the back 2/3 of the Montview lot be rezoned from single family residential to commercial. ANA Executive Committee has taken a stand against the rezoning.

2. 5800 Burnet (shopping center near the HEB) at Allandale Road. Restaurant and bar. Lessee could go to midnight, without any variance. Lessee is asking for a variance, to go till 2 a.m. ANA Executive Committee has taken a stand against that variance. Close neighbors are very much opposed, and 40 have signed a petition.

3. 6100 Bull Creek. Replatting of a large lot, to two lots, for building two family homes. Local neighbors have organized against this, and got a postponement from the July 18 to the August 15 meeting of the Zoning and Platting Commission. ANA Executive Committee has not been asked to take a stand on this one.

Three things, not part of the zoning committee, relate closely to zoning:

1. Restrictions on single family and duplex development (the "McMansions" ordinance) passed city council in permanent form. A key here is that it restricts development in most of Allandale to .4 floor to area ratio (FAR). If the lot is 10,000 sq. ft., the former restrictions allowed building an 8000 or more sq. ft. house, as long as one kept within the 35 feet height, and the required setbacks. In some areas of Allandale there are deed restrictions, already in place, on building a second story, but these restrictions are not enforced by the city and neighbors may have to hire a lawyer and go to court to enforce them. Now a 10,000 sq. ft. lot is limited to a 4,000 sq. ft. house. I, as an individual, supported these limits. These are enforced by the city.

2. Neighborhood planning, for an Allandale Neighbor-hood plan, has started with meetings prior to the executive committee meetings at the Yarborough branch library on Hancock. We had our first meetings in June and July. Because of library repaving in August, and our general meeting including election of executive committee members in September, our next meeting is 6 p.m. on Wednesday, October 25.

3. Code enforcement in Austin is mainly complaint driven. My suggestion, here, is to contact the city: www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/sws_info.cfm. For more information on what is a violation: www.ci.austin.tx.us/sws/code.htm

Feel free to contact me with any questions, and concerns.
John Keohane, Chair, Zoning Committee, ANA,
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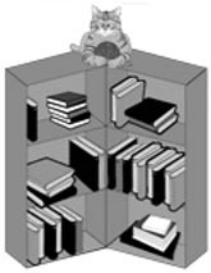

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ANA Forms Liaison Team for Burnet Rd. Developers

Steven Zettner

With four or more development projects set to reshape Burnet Rd. over the coming three years, the ANA Neighborhood Planning Committee at its meeting 7/26/06 created a liaison group to reach out to developers.

The Planning Committee mandated the liaison group to contact property owners and developers along Burnet Rd. to determine their development timeline, and to invite them to present their plans to the Committee.

The liaison group will also research ideas for integrating commercial development along Burnet Rd. in ways that benefit both developers and area residents.

"Allandale has an extraordinary opportunity to influence development along the entire Burnet Rd. corridor," said Steven Zettner, a member of the new working group. "We hope that by acting early in the development process, we can get lots of good ideas into the blueprints in a cost-effective manner."

Committee members urged the liaison group to be conciliatory in approaching developers. "Work with them and build trust," said Gretchen Vaden, Planning Committee member and ANA President.

The Planning Committee decided to launch the liaison group even though city planning officials have warned that the official planning process may be delayed well into 2007. "Rosedale, BrykerWoods, and other neighborhoods are ahead of us on the planning process list," Vaden told the Committee. "City planning staff told me they can't give a reliable estimate of when Allandale might start—the planning schedule is at the mercy of city council priorities."

Northcross Mall, Farmer's Market, the Frisco Restaurant, and the PuttPutt mini-golf course are Burnet Rd. properties known to be on the market or with development plans underway. Other properties were developed or upgraded in the last year, including Amy's Ice Cream, the Buford Center, and the Roger Beasley dealership.

Ideas on the table for Burnet Rd. include improved pedestrian and biking routes, better signage and landscaping, more discrete parking lots, less intrusive noise and lighting, and even marketing or promotional support of local businesses. ❖

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Constable's Notebook

Constable Bruce Elfant

Would you allow people you know nothing about to make decisions about your family, your finances, your health care decisions, etc? Of course not. Amazingly, half or more people do just that by failing to cast their vote for or against issues and candidates that determine the quality of our schools, safety, environment, health, transportation and the taxes we pay to fund these government services. About 90% of us failed to vote in the recent city council elections. Election officials predict that more than half will delegate their voices to strangers in this year's federal, state and local elections by not voting.

My goal is to prove those election officials wrong. The first step is to get people registered to vote. Travis County citizens are pretty good about registering to vote but there are many people who have recently moved to Travis County or who have put off registering for whatever reason. Many others don't realize that if your current address is not on your yellow voter registration card, you need to re register. In 2004 more than 55,000 new voter registrations were received and 30,000 more people re-registered to change their addresses. Voter registration cards can be obtained at numerous locations including The Travis County Courthouse at 11th and Guadalupe, Travis County Tax Office at 5501 Airport, city libraries and the League of Women Voters. Voter cards can also be downloaded from the County Tax office www.traviscountytax.org and the Secretary of State. It is estimated that 100,000 or more of our neighbors are eligible to register but have not done so. The deadline to register to vote for the November election is October 10.

With so many important issues hanging in the balance in Congress, the Texas Legislature, the Courthouse and City Hall, many people have decided to become more involved in our democracy. Volunteer deputy registrar's will be working registration booths and canvassing neighborhoods to register voters. In order to register voters, a person has to receive some basic training and be deputized. I am authorized to train and deputize people in Travis County. I have already deputized about 100 people this year and am available to attend neighborhood meetings and other gatherings to deputize those who want to help their community or precinct achieve a higher voter turnout.

President Kennedy once said, "The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all." Jean Nathan said, "Bad officials are elected by good people who do not vote." With all the rights afforded to us by our American Constitution and Bill of Rights comes the responsibility of citizenship. Just as we would insist on making our own decisions about our families, we should be as vigilant about participating in the deliberations and decisions of our democracy. ❖

visit www.allandalereporter.org

Dog Talk: Responsible Breeder or Backyard Breeder?

Cheryl Silver, csilver2@austin.rr.com, 454-7219

You know that I do lots of dog rescue. I focus on two breeds, Airedale terriers and basenjis and I am a member of the national breed clubs for each breed. I do not breed dogs at all, but many members of the breed clubs do. Each breed club has a Code of Ethics that members are expected to adhere to. Some of these address the expectations for a responsible breeder.

Backyard breeders are people who have a male and female and make puppies. It is as simple as that. My biggest concern about these folks is that they typically do not ensure their pups are spayed/neutered; there is no rigorous health testing, and they provide no safety net for the dogs they produce over the lives of the dogs.

I am fortunate to count a number of responsible breeders as friends and I admire the care, forethought, planning and dedication they put into the breeding of their dogs.

It is common to hear from lay people that they don't want to go to a fancy breeder because they don't want a show dog; they want a pet. I understand the thought process, but I thought it might be instructive to share why it might serve you and your family well to consider some of what a responsible breeder does.

First, a responsible breeder is focused on breeding a dog with excellent health and temperament, and adherence to the breed standard. They are not interested in making the tiniest boxer possible or the biggest Chihuahua possible (I just made up these examples). But there is a common drive among backyard

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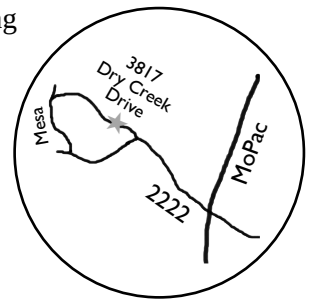

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breeders to create dogs on either extreme of the standard size. Sadly, many of these dogs end up having structural problems that affect their health—including dental problems (small jaws, crowded teeth, twisted jaws and related digestive problems), problems with hips and the spine, and problems with knees.

The breed standard is important because it does address a variety of issues that contribute to a dog that can move well through life. People who do not understand the underlying genetic problems that can emerge when certain matings occur can end up producing dogs with a myriad of health problems.

A responsible breeder would not breed a dog that had not been CERF'ed (Canine Eye Registry Foundation) and the dogs' eyes are tested throughout their lives. Nor would they consider a dog for breeding unless it had been OFA'ed (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals). This is a comprehensive set of x-rays of hips and elbows and even more depending on the breed. The dogs are rated as Excellent, Good, Fair, and Poor. The reputable breeder will look at the results of multiple generations on both sides of a pedigree before considering a dog for breeding. And the first set of x-rays is not done before the dogs are 2 years of age when their skeletons are developed. Of course, they do lots of screening related to genetic diseases, too. The responsible breeder will proudly show you these test results. A reputable breeder will not include a dog of questionable temperament in their breeding program.

A reputable breeder will sign a contract with you stipulating that the dog must come back to them at any time if you cannot keep the dog—they remain responsible for every dog they produce and some put any funds from a purchase into an earmarked account where it stays for years to ensure funds are available to help with that dog's care for the rest of its life.

The reputable breeder will typically have a clause in the contract arranging for the return of the dog if health issues arise and they will be there to help you with their expertise on behavioral issues. You become part of their extended family.

Another important issue—a reputable breeder will typically keep the pups until at least ten weeks of age to insure they have learned important lessons such as bite inhibition from their mom and their littermates. A pup removed from the litter at 6 or 7 weeks typically doesn't have the opportunity to learn this critical lesson the normal way.

Often what they charge for a pup is in the same range as what is charged by a backyard breeder who will tell you "the dogs are AKC." Remember, AKC registration does not address health issues at all.

Let me know if you would like to talk more. I have talked about breeders, but you all know I love for folks to get a rescue <smile>. As always, there is never any charge for anything I do for dogs and their people.. ❖

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Shoal Creek Greenbelt Needs Our Help!

Leslie Christensen

The Shoal Creek Greenbelt in the Allandale neighborhood needs our help. Please come to the September 27 meeting of the neighborhood association and let us know if you think this is a priority the association should allocate money. Also come if you would like to help with volunteer work necessary to get things done. It's our greenbelt and we are the only ones who can do something about it. How about it? Will you?

Most residents of Allandale who have driven down Shoal Creek between Koenig and 45th Street are aware of how heavily infested with ball moss the trees in the greenbelt in that area have become. It became especially clear how bad things were this past winter when the leaves were off the trees. This spring a committee was formed to try and address the problem. We worked in partnership with the Parks and Recreation Department staff. While the greenbelt is under the umbrella of the department, there is essentially no budget available for tree work in greenbelts. Its top responsibility is to keep tree limbs and foliage from streets and pedestrian pathways that cause safety hazards. That takes up over 90% of the tree budget. The Parks Department was willing to give us one day of work on deadheading trees (cutting out the dead wood where much of the ball moss is) in return for a promise that the community would do its share of solving the problem. That day happened August 4 when Jay Culver, Urban Forester for the department, brought his whole crew of seven arborists and Max Moore (director in charge of general cleanup in the greenbelt) sent two of his men. They accomplished a great amount of work for one day clearing 50 trees. The total number of trees that needed deadheading was approximately 190.

After trying unsuccessfully to get funding from Keep Austin Beautiful and the Austin Parks Foundation, the committee presented preliminary findings to the ANA Board with the hope that the Association would fund all or part of the ball moss cleanup. The board wants public input from residents at the ANA General Meeting on September 27 to see if people feel this is how they would like to spend Association money. It was also requested that someone give an overview of all problems associated with our greenbelt. Following is a list of what has been accomplished toward that aim to date:

1. A friend told me he eliminated the ball moss on his five acres of trees using 2 tablespoons of potassium bicarbonate to a gallon of water and adding a drop of a surfectant to get it to stick. The problem is the city couldn't spray this because it is not approved for use on ball moss by the Environmental Protection Agency. I have gotten an agreement from Todd Watson (ball moss expert and researcher at A&M) that he will do a study to test this approach if we come up with the fund-

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ing. The president of Bioworks (a company that produces Milstop which is basically the above mentioned formula) will donate the Milstop for the study and will also hire the consultant to go to the EPA with the study to get them to add Ball Moss to the list of already approved uses. He thinks this could be done within six months of having the study results. Todd has a sample of the Milstop and will do a small preliminary test this fall, which will tell us if the test is viable. If it works, then the actual study will cost somewhere between $500-5000. If the EPA approves this, it will allow for a very cost effective way to treat ball moss in public lands in the future. Warren Straus, Director of Parks and Recreation told me that if this happens and the watershed protection folks agree that it is safe to spray, he will add it to future city parks budgets.

If the study is a go, then we will have to come up with the money. In this case, since it will help all the neighborhood parks, we can ask the other neighborhood associations to help fund the project.

2. Syd Mourning of Good Morning Tree Company has given us a bid to do the rest of the deadheading in the park. He also included getting all the trees along the street perfectly clear of ball moss, and maybe most of the rest of the trees as well. He will do this in four days for a total cost of $4400. This is a fabulous price.

3. An arborist from TreeFolks, a non-profit organization that helps to grow the urban forest, will walk the greenbelt with me on August 16 to give us his assessment of what other problems the trees may be having. For example, we are already aware that some of the root flares on some trees are covered with dirt, thus creating a serious challenge to their survival. Information will be shared at the September 27 meeting.

4. Mike Lyday (ecologist and specialist in waterways protection) with the Watershed Protection Department will come and walk the greenbelt on August 14 to give us ideas of how we could help protect the greenbelt from further erosion and flood damage. This would come in the form of certain plants and grasses. Information will be available at the September 27 meeting.

Again, please come to the meeting and support the committee on getting our greenbelt looking more beautiful. It is up to attendees to encourage the board of this worthwhile project.. Without our efforts, deterioration will continue. ❖

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Allandale Neighborhood Improvement Challenge—Win a Hewlett-Packard Consumer Product!

Patrick Manley

Attention Allandale kids: Submit a Neighborhood Improvement Project and become eligible to win an HP digital camera or printer.

Who can Enter: Open to all Allandale school children (K-12)

The Details: This contest challenges you to use your creativity and ingenuity to plan and execute a neighborhood project that accomplishes one or more of the following criteria:

- Improve the quality of life of the Allandale neighborhood
- Protect and maintain the Allandale environment
- Showcase the history of the Allandale neighborhood
- Enhance the quality of life of our elderly Allandale residents
- Celebrate the diversity of the Allandale neighborhood

Creator of the winning project will receive a new Hewlett-Packard consumer product (such as a digital camera, photo printer, etc.)!

This is an ongoing challenge! Every six months, a new winner will be selected by the Allandale Neighborhood Association Executive Board.

Please submit your entry by writing a short paragraph describing your project and how it enhances the Allandale neighborhood. If appropriate, you also may include photos of your project. Please mail your entry to:

Allandale Neighborhood Improvement Challenge
6200 Woodview Ave.
Austin, Tx 78757 ❖

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The Next Best Thing to Chatting Across the Fence

Tom Linehan

If you want to find out what is troubling people in Allandale or need a recommendation on a good plumber or roofer or arborist or pet sitter, or want to find out if someone has found your dog, subscribe to the Allandale listserve. The listserve is an email group that allows you to read postings emailed from others in the group and post topical emails for others to read.

Once you sign up for the listserve, you'll start receiving emails from fellow members. Typically, they are posing a question, voicing a concern, or responding to a question posed by another member of the group. I've lived in the neighborhood over 20 years and have come to know quite a few people, but it wasn't until I subscribed to the listserve that I realized how small my network was. With the listserve, I'm able to communicate with over 500 neighbors. That's how many Allandaleites are signed up to the listserve. It's all done through email. It's free and you can unsubscribe at any time.

The listserve is moderated so if someone posts something inappropriate, the listserve moderator can take away that person's posting privileges. I don't know if there has ever been the need. There are postings that I have no interest in and times when a topic seems to go on forever… snooze. But that's OK. Something always comes around of interest.

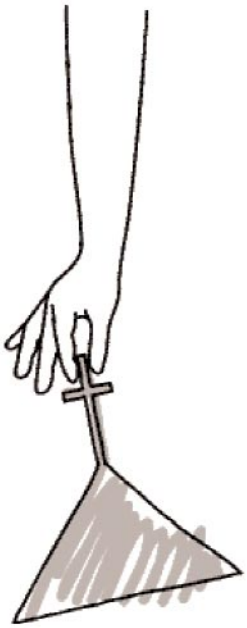
Occasionally, you'll see a posting from someone wanting to take it off list, meaning they're not interested in the topic dominating the listings. Unless it's unanimous, the topic is usually allowed to continue. The simple solution is for the person to delete the messages. For those that complain about the listserve's messages cluttering their inboxes, I suggest creating an email folder to collect the listserve's emails. This separates the listserve postings from the rest of your email. I subscribe to 5 or 6 other listserves, two of which are the adjoining neighborhood listserves, Rosedale and Brentwood. I don't have the time to go through them all in one sitting. Consequently, I've created separate folders for each and go through them as I have time.

To subscribe to the Allandale listserve, see instructions on page 2 of this issue. This is the best way to learn about what is going on in the neighborhood without having to chat across the neighborhood fence in the hot sun. ❖

Shoal Creek sidewalk project from 38th St to Foster

excerpts taken from letter received from the City of Austin

The City of Austin Public Works Department will soon start a project in [Allandale] to repair/replace or install new sidewalk, curb and gutter, retaining walls and handicap ramps on Shoal Creek from 38th Street to Foster. Both sides



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of Shoal Creek will have continuous sidewalks within these limits.

We are addressing this letter to you as we may have certain work, including the installation of new sidewalk, on the City's right-of-way at your address. Although the City is not required by law to assist with relocation work on the right-of-way, we will make every effort to both coordinate this with you and provide relocation work as possible. However, we are also providing this letter so there is an understanding that if we provide help with this effort, such as relocation of plants, that all subsequent responsibility is with you, the owner, including maintenance, water and any replacement if necessary. Providing this service as a courtesy, we cannot be responsible for replacement of lost plants.

We will attempt to minimize any impact our work has upon you and please feel free to call our Civil Engineer, Imad Salem, P.E., at 296-3932 or the City's Project manager Darryl Haba, at 974-7205 if you have any questions or comments before or during construction.

The City of Austin would like to thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Michael Curtis
Program Manager (974-7056)
City of Austin Public Works Department ❖

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*Based on Search in Austin Multiple Listing Service of Houses from 01/01/05-12/31/05 in 78757 Zip Code with Gullett Elementary.

Allandale Needs You! Join ANA Today!

The Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) is known as a strong neighborhood association. We depend on your membership. We need neighbors to join ANA to continue to be a strong local group. By joining, you help produce this newsletter, put on the 4th of July Parade, fund our Partners in Education and much more. Please volunteer for activities that interest you. Fill out the membership form and mail it to the address provided, or call 452-4497.

New or Renewal Membership

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Street Address _____

Phone Number(s) _____

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Membership cost:

❑ $10 per household ❑ $7 senior citizen rate

We need volunteers! Please check your interests:

- ❑ Create and post signs
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- ❑ Attorney
- ❑ Beautification
- ❑ Photography
- ❑ Make phone calls
- ❑ Write cards/letters
- ❑ Transportation
- ❑ Sheffield NW District Park
- ❑ City planning
- ❑ Shoal Creek cleanup
- ❑ Write local history
- ❑ July 4th Parade
- ❑ Membership
- ❑ Crime prevention
- ❑ Yarborough Library
- ❑ Shoal Creek issues
- ❑ Newsletter/website
- ❑ Partners in Education
- ❑ Publicity
- ❑ Capital Metro
- ❑ Engineering issues

Please make checks payable to:

Allandale Neighborhood Association ■ c/o Paul Nagy ■ 6501 Shoal Creek Blvd. ■ Austin, TX 78757

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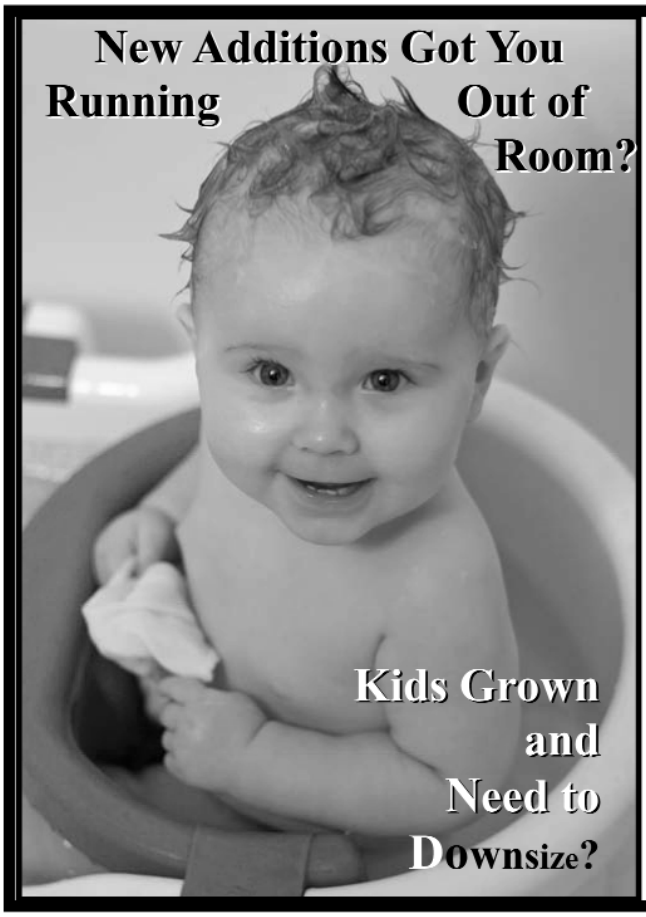

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